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dearest uncle

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dearest uncle

by Laura Marsee

dearest uncle:
passed out
cold
on the couch.
the last remnants
of his fifteenth
vodka-and-grapefruit juice
cocktail
dribble lazily down
his stubble-peppered chin.
enormous sock feet
planted square
center in his
half-eaten supper
on the cracked coffee table;
creamed corn
and squashed peas stick
defiantly to the
cuffs of his
fashionably rumpled
levi's.
a murderous crimson
splotch
winds its way
south
across the front
of his
well-worn
flannel shirt,

making him appear
at first glance
to have been recently shot
in the chest
by a high caliber
revolver.
the television blares
pointlessly—
the radio, too.
the entire room in
hopeless disarray
around his oblivious form.
and
a few short steps away,
his typewriter:
sticky with random drops
of drying bourbon
and correction fluid,
thinly dusted
with the snow gray ash
of countless cigarettes.
scores of crumpled balls
of sad, white paper
scattered dejectedly
over the table and across
threadbare carpet
plead silently
to be reconsidered,
just like me.